

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 4842

E.O. 11652: GDS
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SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

FOR ANDREWS FROM SIMONS, EUR/EE THREE COPIES ONLY

1. RANGEL NEGATIVE MOTION ON MFN. DURING AMBASSADOR'S JULY 10 MEETING WITH NICOLAE, LATTER SAID HE WOULD BE RETURNING TO WASHINGTON MONDAY, JULY 17--CONTRARY TO ORIGINAL PLANS FOR FULL VACATION IN ROMANIA--TO TRY TO HELP DEAL WITH NEGATIVE MOTION ON MFN BEING SUBMITTED BY CONGRESSMAN RANGEL. BOTH AMBASSADORS ASSUME MOTION WILL HAVE ITS ROOTS IN RANGEL'S RELATIONSHIP WITH CYRUS GILBERT ABBE AND ABBE'S DISSATISFACTION WITH HIS TRIP HERE. WE WERE UNAWARE OF PROSPECT UNTIL NICOLAE MENTIONED IT, AND UNPLEASANTLY SURPRISED WHEN HE DID. WE ALSO WONDER WHETHER THERE IS ANYTHING USEFUL WE CAN DO FROM THIS END. AMBASSADOR AND MRS. AGGREY KNOW RANGEL'S VERY WELL, FROM HIS INVOLVEMENT IN SAHEL RELIEF AND MULTIPLE VISITS TO DAKAR, AND POSSIBILITY OF PERSONAL MESSAGE OR PHONE CALL, DEPENDING ON PROTOCOL PRACTICES IN DEALING WITH CONGRESS, CAME TO MIND. TACK OF MESSAGE WOULD BE THAT AMBASSADOR WAS SURPRISED TO HEAR ABOUT MOTION; THAT, WHILE HE WAS AWARE OF ABBE'S UNHAPPINESS, HIS BEST APPRECIATION OF SITUATION MAKES HIM FEEL VERY STRONGLY THAT MOTION IS CVT WARRANTED; AND THAT RANGEL SHOULD TAKE EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO COME AND SOUND OUT SITUATION HIMSELF. GIVE US A QUICK JUDGMENT ON
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WHAT WOULD BE BOTH APPROPRIATE AND PRACTICAL.

2. RELAY OF WHITE HOUSE UNHAPPINESS. DURING ROSEN'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVITIES, I TALKED TO HIAS EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT GAYNOR JACOBSON (STATE 159572) AND AJC EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVE ABE KARLAKOV (PARIS-BASED, SEE PARIS 20721), AND LATTER RELAYED FORMER'S MESSAGE ABOUT

WHITE HOUSE UNHAPPINESS OVER EMBASSY'S JEWISH EMIGRATION SUPPORT ACTIVITIES TO AMBASSADOR JULY 5 (SINCE JACOBSON WAS CALLED OUT OF COUNTRY EARLY). ACCORDING TO JACOBSON, JUST BEFORE HE LEFT HE HAD BEEN CALLED BY SOMEONE IN EISENSTADT'S OFFICE AND ASKED TO RELAY TO EMBASSY DISSATISFACTION WITH OUR PERFORMANCE ON JEWISH EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL. HE SAID HE HAD OBJECTED THAT WHITE HOUSE HAD OTHER MORE APPROPRIATE CHANNELS FOR MESSAGE, BUT WANTED TO PASS IT ALONG ANYWAY.

3. RELAY OF WHITE HOUSE UNHAPPINESS (CONTINUED). WE ALL AGREED THAT THE ORIGIN OF THE MESSAGE WAS ABBE. JACOBSON SAID ABBE HAD DROPPED A WEIGHTY MEMORIAL ON HIS DESK DAY BEFORE HE LEFT. I WENT THROUGH HISTORY OF ABBE'S TOURNEE IN ROMANIA, INCLUDING OUR ADVICE TO HIM NOT TO TRY TAKING LETTERS OUT, WITH HEAVY STRESS ON DANGER TO APPLICANTS. JACOBSON SAID HE WAS WELL AWARE OF DANGER; HE ALSO THOUGHT SOME OF WHITE HOUSE SENSITIVITY RESULTED FROM INTERREGNUM FOLLOWING SIEGEL'S RESIGNATION IN JEWISH LIAISON SLOT. ON OTHER HAND, HIAS HAS 1,500 NAMES OF ROMANIANS WITH RELATIVES IN US, BUT NOT FIRST-DEGREE RELATIVES; THEY ARE PLANNING TO CHECK OUT THE INTENTIONS OF THESE PEOPLE BY LETTER, TO WEED THEM OUT, BEFORE WEIGHING IN. I TOLD HIM (AND KARLAKOV) WE WANTED TO HELP, AND HAVE BEEN HELPING (ROSINGER ET AL WERE PROMINENTLY MENTIONED AS EVIDENCE); AND, EVEN THOUGH CONFIDENTIAL

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RECRUITMENT OF EMIGRANTS TO ISRAEL ALONG LINES PROPOSED BY ABBE IS IMPROPER FOR US AND DANGEROUS FOR APPLICANTS, WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO CHECK OUT INTENTIONS OF THOSE WHO SURVIVED WEEDING PROCESS ON HIS LIST BY CALLING THEM IN AND ASKING ABOUT WHETHER THEY REALLY WANTED TO GO. I ALSO NOTED PASSPORT FOR US IS OFTEN EASIER TO GET THAN PASSPORT FOR ISRAEL, AND THAT SOME MIGHT BE HANDLED TCP IF THEY DID NOT HAVE FIRST-DEGREE RELATIVES IN US. IN HIS TALK WITH KARLAKOV (WHO WAS SPEAKING ALSO FOR JACOBSON AT THAT POINT), AMBASSADOR STRESSED OUR DEDICATION TO RESULTS, RATHER THAN JUST PUBLICITY, AND WENT OVER JEWISH EMIGRATION SITUATION IN GENERAL TERMS. ALTHOUGH BOTH ARE SATISFIED US SHOULD CARRY ISRAELI WATER ON QUESTION OF JEWISH EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL, GIVEN HIGHER ISRAELI PRIORITIES IN RELATIONS WITH ROMANIA, BOTH ALSO SEEMED SATISFIED THAT WE ARE IN FACT WILLING TO WORK AND TO DO WHAT CAN PROPERLY BE DONE, AS IN PAST. BUT SHAPE AND CHANNEL OF MESSAGE CAME AS SOMEWHAT NASTY SURPRISE.

4. GEORGESCU AND ESPEY. IN AMBASSADOR'S TALK WITH NICOLAE JULY 10, NICOLAE ASKED FOR AMBASSADOR'S JUDGMENT

ON MFN PROSPECTS, AND AMBASSADOR REPLIED HE THOUGHT THEY WERE GOOD, BUT THAT WE WOULD HAVE HOPED FOR MORE PROGRESS IN CERTAIN AREAS AND CERTAIN CASES. HERE HE MENTIONED BOTH VLAD GEORGESCU AND THE ESPEY/IONESCU MARRIAGE CASE (COUPLE CAME IN TO SEE HIM THAT DAY, AND ESPEY IS GETTING DISTRAUGHT WITH FOUR WEEKS TO GO IN COUNTRY). NICOLAE SAID HE WOULD BE SEEING MFA COUNSULAR DIRECTOR BADESCU. IN RESPONSE, AMBASSADOR OPINED IT IS POSSIBLE CASES ARE BEING HANDLED AT HIGHER LEVELS, AND WORD WITH MINISTER MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE. NICOLAE TOOK CAREFUL NOTES. (FYI. HE DID NOT LOOK WELL, BUT MADE NO MENTION OF REPLACEMENT. RUMORS HERE ARE NOW CONCENTRATING ON RBFT PRESIDENT VOLOSENIUC, RATHER THAN DEP FONMIN GLIGA, WHO HAS PROBABLY DECIDED TO STAY IN EUROPE IF HE LEAVES BUCHAREST. END FYI.)
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